

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

CHANNELS

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020066-4

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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CONFIDENTIAL

CIA/OCI

/WHIZ 740227

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCHANTS.

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

25X1A

FLD  
49

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: 28 FEB 74

SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESIGNS

REF: [REDACTED]

THE MAN WHOM PRESIDENT POMPIDOU CHOOSES TO REPLACE PRIME MINISTER MESSMER IS EXPECTED TO SET THE STAGE FOR EARLY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS FORCED BY POMPIDOU'S DECLINING HEALTH.

THE INFORMATION MINISTER ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A SUCCESSOR TO MESSMER WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC "VERY QUICKLY, POSSIBLY EVEN TODAY."

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MEN IN THE RUNNING TO BE THE CANDIDATE OF THE GOVERNING COALITION IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D'ESTAING IS A PRINCIPAL CONTENDER, AND IF HE IS APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER IT WILL BE TAKEN AS A SIGN THAT POMPIDOU IS GROOMING HIM FOR THE PRESIDENCY. GISCARD IS THE

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HEAD OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS, THE JUNIOR PARTNER OF THE COALITION, AND, ALTHOUGH HE IS A POMPIDOU FAVORITE, HE IS OPPOSED BY ORTHODOX GAULLISTS. THESE MEN WANT FORMER PRIME MINISTER CHAPAN-DELMAS TO REPRESENT THE COALITION IN A PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

IF POMPIDOU CONCLUDES THAT IT IS FRUITLESS TO ATTEMPT TO FORCE Giscard to the fore, he could appoint as prime minister an orthodox gaullist, such as housing minister Guichard, agriculture minister Chirac, or armed forces minister Galley, who would back Chaban in a presidential race. Foreign minister Jobert is a well qualified candidate who probably is acceptable to all wing of the coalition and who would not threaten any presidential contenders because he lacks the necessary political base. His appointment would mean that Pompidou has not yet finalized the coalition choice of a presidential candidate.

2. THE RESIGNATION OF THE NESSMER GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN COMING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, DID NOT REFLECT DISSENSION WITHIN THE

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GOVERNMENT OVER FRENCH ENERGY POLICY AND OPPOSITION TO US ENERGY  
PROPOSALS. E-2 IMPDET.A

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: N EUR AND NIO [REDACTED]

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